

# CALIFORNIA GARDEN



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FEBRUARY 1933

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# The California Garden

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No. 8

## PARK BEACHES

By JOHN G. MORLEY

For several years, the question of access to the beaches along the Pacific Coast has been more or less before the public, not only in San Diego City and County, but in other counties and cities of the State that border on the Pacific Ocean.

In many cities and towns, the available ocean frontage is gradually being acquired by private interests, and fenced to exclude the general public from its use. The City of San Diego is in a more fortunate position, as there are several miles of beach controlled by the city along park frontage that will always be open, not only for bathing, but for the splendid surf fishing.

Sunset Cliffs, along the west shore line of Point Loma, commencing at the south boundary adjacent to the property of the Theosophical Society, thence north to Point Loma avenue, a distance of two miles, is a part of the park system. This shore line is very picturesque, of a rocky and very rugged character, with several caves along the shore; there is very little room for bathing. This is a very interesting place and many thousands of tourists and residents of the city enjoy this rugged coast throughout the year.

Traveling north from Sunset Cliffs, we come to where the City owns 300 feet of frontage between Muir Avenue and Brighton Street. This is an ideal bathing beach and taken in connection with other unrestricted beaches in this area, it is an enjoyable place for the people.

Fifteen miles north of the city proper we come to La Jolla, where the Park Department has jurisdiction for practically 7,000 feet of ocean frontage. This area is also of a rugged and picturesque character. Good bathing areas

are available—the two popular sections are at The Cove in La Jolla park, and at the new swimming pool area in front of the Casa de Manana, where a very fine concrete breakwater was built for the protection of bathers from funds donated by the late Miss Ellen Scripps. The Cove at La Jolla park is the most popular of all the beach property of the City, as it is a safe place for the kiddies, as well as the grown-ups. Here you may bathe or swim in safety or enjoy the beach to your heart's content. During the summer season, thousands of people crowd this safe and sheltered place.

At La Jolla Shores, about two miles north of La Jolla, the City owns another beach property, which in conjunction with adjoining properties not owned by the City but open to the public, provides over a mile of very fine beach for public enjoyment.

Three miles farther north, we come to Torrey Pines park, a City property of over 600 acres, with an ocean frontage of 14,000 feet. This taken in conjunction with the property of the late Miss Ellen Scripps, which I understand has been left to the City, will add 2500 feet more, giving a total of approximately three miles of continuous beach from the south boundary of Torrey Pines park to the City Limits on the north. This area is one of the most popular in the county for surf and yellow fin fishing—many people camp over night to enjoy the fine sport, and also the fine bathing in the surf.

Whenever San Diego is enabled to provide suitable accommodations for its citizens, along the seashore, it will certainly add to the popularity of its park and recreational attractions.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers

## WILDFLOWER REFUGE AT RANCHO SANTA FE

During the year which has just ended, the Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club aligned itself with the Conservation work of the State Federation of Garden Clubs by undertaking the establishment of a Wildflower Refuge upon one of the available Park areas which have been deeded to the people of Rancho Santa Fe. Among the thirty-two park sites, of greatly varying size, one has been chosen just beyond the Civic Center, on the west side of Paseo Delicias, the street which leads away toward the Lake Hodges Road. An acceptable sketch for the proposed landscaping has been submitted to the Park Board, and the preliminary work of clearing away the undesirable greasewood will soon be under way.

The selected site is an ideal one for the modest effort which the Garden Club has decided upon. It is so situated that its development as a natural park cannot fail to attract the attention of every passer-by on this main highway. Close to the road lies a flattened portion of the land which will doubtless be sown to the annuals which can provide such profusion of color and beauty while more permanent plantings are becoming established. Then the island-shaped area drops away steeply, there is a natural arroyo and a sloping hillside which leads down to the more sheltered portion of the land, and indicates that even sycamores may be expected to survive if placed there. Together with Live Oaks, the Sycamore is the only tree which will be used in the small park.

The native plantings which are already present in this "Refuge" have always attracted attention, even though they are in their own wild state. But when the poor underbrush has been cleared away, these finer shrubs will give natural opportunity for additional plantings from time to time, and as funds are available. Good and bad, the present list of those counted reads as follows: Romero and *Rhus integrifolia* in large fine clumps, one splendid old yucca *Mohavensis* (Spanish bayonet), Manzanita, Oregon grape, chemise, Mimulus, grass iris, *Hosakia glabra* (deerweed), *Solanum*, *Opuntias*, sage, white ceanothus, bush mallow, and several specimens of the interesting little shrub *Cneoridium dumosium*, as well as a few toyons.

It is not proposed to make of this area a botanical garden with samples of all sorts of things in it, but to add to its natural development such plantings as shall preserve its best specimens and insure an all-year beauty for the

small park, which is already encircled by a well-surfaced road, from which visitors will be enabled to look into it without even leaving their cars.

RUTH R. NELSON.

## PRIMULAS

*Primula malacoides*, the typical pink-tinted lavender that we have had for several years, is still a most satisfactory plant and can never be spared from our gardens. It prefers a little shade but will flourish and bloom most profusely in the open. Variety of shades are possible now and it should be cultivated to give some variation to the type—a darker shade or two and the pure white. Mr. A. D. Robinson has a fine variety that is very encouraging.

The many sorts of polyanthus primroses unfortunately do not flourish in San Diego, though Mrs. Fred Scripps has managed to have a few doing well in her Pacific Beach garden and she reports them a great success at her Pine Hills garden. They are real stand-bys in the gardens of San Francisco and Oakland.

The Chinese primroses, both single and semi-double, were a few years ago our only primrose; but of late years they have been so wonderfully improved in both size and color of flower that we should make a real effort now to cultivate them more generously. They do require shade and are a success in the lath-house or beneath some established large shrub on its north side. Large plants of native *Rhus* and cherry would give ideal shade for these primroses. Dr. Karl Kellogg, of Chula Vista, had a good many fine ones last year that he had raised from seed. The nurseries should make a real effort to grow a lot this coming summer for the next winter's flowering. The foliage is excellent and evergreen; they live all through the year and bloom, also. Shades of pink, red and lavender are the most pleasing and they seed well in San Diego.

This year I have observed for the first time the primrose *Obconica* in pleasing shades of pink and lavender; formerly it showed only the poor magenta shades. One needs to be careful of this variety as it may be poisonous to the skin. Not everyone is affected but it pays to be careful.

The magazine "Gardening Illustrated," Vol. 30, Oct. 1866, has a very fine colored plate—and that forty-six years ago. We must surely get busy on this excellent plant.

KATE O. SESSIONS.

## Presidio Hills Park

By C. I. JERABEK

Few people realize what Mr. George W. Marston has done for the city of San Diego in developing the thirty acres that lie between the northwest borders of Mission Hills and Old Town.

Here less than five years ago on several brown hills were only an old olive orchard, a number of eucalyptus trees, a sparse growth of a half-dozen native shrubs, in the more barren spots a few cacti and one lone palm tree. In 1913 the Order of Panama had erected on a mound part way up the slope a large cross in commemoration of Father Serra. This memorial was made of tiles dug from the ruins of the old buildings in the Presidio. Near the summit of this same hill were the trenches of the fortifications of old Fort Stockton overgrown with grass and weeds.

### A Museum of History

Today the landscape has changed. Near the site of the first mission (where Father Junipero Serra, a Friar monk, conducted the first services on California soil in 1769), Mr. Marston has had built a Spanish Museum, a white stucco building of beauty and picturesqueness, resembling a California mission along El Camino Real. This is not only a great tribute to the donor, but to the past, present and future generations of San Diegans as well. This structure houses the historical collections of the San Diego Historical Society and the Pioneer Society of San Diego.

After going through the building and examining the furniture and other relics of by-gone days, one may walk out upon the balcony along the east side and look up the beautiful Mission Valley, following the tree-lined river bed, on either side with patches in various shades of green, of alfalfa and winter vegetables, tracing the river into the distance to the buildings of Mission San Diego da Alcalá, moved from this location in 1744 to its present site. Beyond the foothills, to the eastward, the purple-tinted Cuyamaca mountains, whose peaks are snow capped in the winter months.

After enjoying this scene for a short time anyone interested will want to stroll around to the front of the museum and examine the various shrubs,—Myrtle commanis, with small, fragrant foliage; dwarf Pomegranate covered with its scarlet fruit, and Plumbago

capensis full of delightful blue flowers. Near the stairway are Hakea suaveolens with their comb-like leaves; several olive trees laden with fruit; two large clumps of the yellow-flowered velvet geraniums which look very effective with the great loose heads of blossoms; Australian Bluebells, small deep green foliage and intense blue flowers, and Acanthus mollis which is planted more for its large, showy, glossy green leaves than for its spikes of flowers.

### The Oldest Palm

Walking down the pathway many *Genista monosperma*, whose flowers hang like bridal veils, down the slope are giant clumps of *Echium fastuosum*, the large feathery spike of blue and purple flowers thrill the passerby in the springtime. Looking over the edge of the steep bluff numerous vines are draping and cascading down the bank; these in time will be covered with masses of bloom. One may pause a moment to watch the ceaseless traffic crossing the bridge on the U. S. 101 route, then walk on down to where a majestic date palm is standing. This, the oldest tree of its kind in the West, was grown from a seed planted by Father Serra in 1769.

### Where Civilization Began

Climbing up the hill another way one comes through a maze of shrubbery, and there across the road a trail leads to the cross. It certainly looks different from what it did in years past, for around this mound now are masses of shrubbery, several large date palms and a few dwarf fans and many kinds of *mesembryanthemum*, commonly called ice plants, whose riotous brilliance of the thousands and thousands of blossoms which in the springtime form a carpet, taking one's breath away with this shimmering mass of flowers.

Across the driveway within the walls of the military enclosure are the ruins of the official birthplace of San Diego; these weather-beaten mounds of dirt and tile floors are all that remains of the past dwellings of the priests, soldiers and Spanish grandees. Upon some of these piles of adobe are fat-leaved *Opuntia*, "Prickly Pears," fringed with purple and yellow fruit; *Aloe arborescens* with its large rosettes of green leaves and brilliant red flowers, resem-

bling red hot pokers; and dignified columnar cacti, commonly spoken of as "Suwano."

Along the uneven trial are scarlet and purple salvias; butterfly bushes; and the nightshade, *Solanum rantonetti*. To the right like a dot in the presidio a group of *Phoenix reclinata* palms, these being transplanted here are now a great ornament to the landscape. A little farther on is the bastion, surrounding it is a low planting of agaves, yuccas, cacti and succulents.

### Landscaping and Day Dreaming

Following the pathway through the olive grove to a small bridge whose side afforded a welcome place to rest. Watching the bees and butterflies flitting from blossom to blossom on the blue gums, I thought what a paradise this park is for the botanist and plant lovers with its one hundred thousand trees, shrubs and vines coming from every clime. What a thrill, or how pleased a stranger from a foreign land would feel to see some plant from his native land. In any direction a person turns his eyes, there can be seen trees and shrubs full of interest, but a hopeless task to attempt to enumerate. I could not help thinking of the astonishingly rapid growth, as less than five years, the majority came out of gallon cans.

Farther up the pathway are found beautiful flowering melaleucas, veronicas, abelias and berried shrubs of various sorts, a number of *Hakea laurina* with its curious red and white blossoms resembling sea-urchins, alongside another variety whose unique seed pods look like small snake's heads.

Around the bend near this path is a large settee in a small clearing. From this vantage place one may look eastward into a natural amphitheatre, formed in the past by a few barren hills and a dry, grassy depression, but now a landscape to delight the eye. In the foreground stately pines of many types, open vistas, many rare and interesting shrubs in between. While the surrounding hills which form the bowl are seen through golden flower-laden acacias, orange-scented pittosporums whose fragrance fills the whole air.

On the north slope of the bowl Monterey cypress and *Eucalyptus cornuta* predominate, but close rivals are the California lilac, *Ceanothus cyaneus* and arborea, with their blue and deep purple flowers and the *Hypericum floribundum* covered with golden buttercup-like flowers of surpassing loveliness. At this season of the year, our native Holly bushes with their

great profusion of deep red berries are in full beauty, giving new arrivals a pleasing first-impression.

### Old Fort Stockton

After observing these things any one wishing to gain further knowledge of past history will want to walk on a short distance to the brow of this hill, which is full of memories. Here are located trenches used by Commodore Robert F. Stockton, U. S. N., and a force of sailors, marines and volunteer soldiers, during the war with the Mexicans and Indians in 1846. On the highest part of the ground the Native Sons of the Golden West, on April 6, 1913, erected a flagstaff and set a tablet in memory of these men. Running riot over this knob and trenches at the present time are cacti and various native shrubs.

Close by there is an old Spanish gun, called "El Jupiter," cast in Manila, Spain, A. D. 1783. It was one of twelve; its companion pieces of ordnance were by orders of Commodore Stockton thrown in the deepest waters of the bay.

Looking down along the western slope from this point, the hillside is covered with eucalyptus of many kinds, except near the base where many genista, cassia, lantana and other dwarf shrubs have been used to taper off the planting.

### Plymouth Rock of the Pacific

This hill has been called "the Plymouth of the West Coast," but instead of seeing some bleak shore you gaze out over a semi-circle of magnificent scenery, — Mt. Soledad to the north, then swinging around the circle Pacific Beach, Mission Bay and Beach resort, a portion of Ocean Beach, Loma Portal, Roseville, La Playa, the giant promontory of Point Loma, Coronado, and silhouetted against the outer sea, the Coronado Islands off the coast of Mexico.

### Historic and Romantic Old Town

Now within this inner circle at the base of the hill is a verdant golf course, a short distance west is Old Town, the cradle of early San Diego history, too, with the Plaza where the first American Flag was raised in Southern California by General John C. Fremont. Near this square may be seen the Old Congress Hall, Casas Bandini and Machada, Ramona's Marriage Place, first American schoolhouse, Adobe Chapel and many other ancient houses.

### U. S. Army and Navy

To complete the inner circle are the beautiful buildings and grounds of the Marine and

Naval Training Stations, also North Island, where are located the United States Army and Navy aviation base, and in the blue sparkling waters of San Diego bay many of Uncle Sam's battleships lying at anchor and plying back and forth are other boats of various sizes and descriptions. And to think one may see all this in a few minutes, a scene of indescribable beauty.

The people of San Diego have a right to be proud of this park not only because the civilization in California began here, but that one of our oldest and greatest benefactors has spent large sums of money and years of thought in the planting and landscaping of this almost barren and desolate tract into the beautiful area it is today.

### STRAY THOUGHTS

One of these thoughts is about the Silver Tree—*Leucadendron argenteum*—a native of South Africa. It has been grown in this Southland for a number of years. Only in recent years have we learned that it is a dioecious subject; that is, pistillate flowers on one tree, staminate flowers on another tree. In other words one tree is fruitful, another tree is sterile. Miss Kate Sessions has one of the former in her garden, while on adjoining estate is one of the latter. The foliage is so soft, so silky that it is a joy to feel it slip through ones fingers.

Here is a thought for readers of these lines. Miss Sessions has a few little plants in pots and as soon as warm spring days return, those of you who live where frosts are not severe, get a plant or two of those babies, plant them in the open, and give them care until established, after which they will thrive on a minimum amount of water. You will want to know why I advise buying, and planting those little things. For the reason that the roots are yet young and will penetrate the soil. If grown in pots for any length of time the roots become hard as corkscrews, and never get away from that condition. Such trees of any sort are a snare and a delusion, for landscape work. They never root deeply, and when assailed by storms are blown down.

If Miss Sessions asks a dollar each for the plants don't haggle over the price. They are difficult to grow. The seedlings are disposed to damp off about the time they appear above the sand or soil in which they are planted. But get the plants. If the yard or garden is already filled with trees and shrubs, some of which

may have proved undescirable, chop them out, and give the plant or plants room for development. One of the mistakes we all make in planting schemes is too close planting. Trees and shrubs are so crowded that they do not have a chance to show their individuality, their beauty, at maturity.

Miss Sessions also has a Juniper which is so extraordinarily beautiful that it should be found in every collection of Conifers. Whether it is a species or only a variety, I don't know. She should be paid a high price for them. Let not the question arise in the heart of any reader: "Is that man a press agent for Miss Sessions?" I write of the plants, at this time, for the reason she is the only nurseryman who has them for sale.

*Monstera deliciosa* is the next subject for discussion at this time. We have come to think of it as a tropical plant only adapted to glass house culture. In very truth the best specimens I know of in all this Southland are on the grounds of Hollenbeck Home, Los Angeles, and that too in full sun. The leaves are not as dark green as those grown under glass, but the flowers—rather the Spathes which surround the Spadix on which the flowers grow—are more numerous, and much more beautiful than any ever I have seen grown under glass. Then, too, we have come to think that an abundance of water is necessary for its best development. This is another fallacy dispelled by the plants under discussion. *Deliciosa* is the adjective applied to the flavor of the fruit, which is correct, but beware of the covering of the fruit. It is composed of stinging bristles that are excruciating if they come in contact with the mucous membranes of the mouth.

A shrub that pleases me greatly is *Buddleia nivea*. It is not as vigorous grower as *B. asiatica*. neither are the flowers very attractive, but the plant is covered with a white floccose coat that is exquisitely beautiful. To grow a fine specimen, pinching of the tips of the new growth is necessary.

It is these little things that are essential to the creation of beauty in any garden. Furthermore it is sedative to distraught nerves; a development of the virtue of patience, and a stimulant to thought and observation to walk and work in a garden.

"The kiss of the sun for pardon,  
The song of the birds for mirth—  
One is nearer to God's heart in the Garden  
Than anywhere else on earth."

PETER D. BARNHART.

# The California Garden

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
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### NOTICE OF FEBRUARY MEETING

Mrs. Neff Bakkers, well-known to the members of the San Diego Floral Association, will be the speaker at the February meeting, on Tuesday, the 21st. Her subject will be "Cacti and Other Succulents." The speaker will be accompanied by Mr. A. B. Clayton, who will display studies in color photography of local garden plants. Mrs. Bakkers invites the members of the Floral Association and their friends to her garden on Bach Street in Encanto during the week beginning February 12th where she is displaying her collection of rare succulents in a setting illustrating method of growth and arrangement.

Has anyone tried the autumn crocus bulbs? As they need to be kept dry for a time while dormant, it would seem that they would be a successful bulb for Southern California, blooming from September to December. A report regarding them would be welcome.

KATE O. SESSIONS.

## MORE ABOUT THE K. O. SESSIONS AGAVE AND ALOE GARDEN IN BALBOA PARK, SAN DIEGO

The following donations have been lately received: Fifty seedling Agave Victoria regia from Miss Constance Bowers; six Agave, five aloes and five yuccas from Mr. W. L. Decker.

### Mesembryanthemums

The following list enumerates species we will be very pleased to receive:

M. acutangular	M. felinum
alstonii	flexuosum
amoenum	laxum
angulatum	longum
cinetum	odoratum
conspicuum	obligum
densum	propingue
deltoides var. muri-	rubrieale
catum	scapigerum
dolabriformis	splendens
falciforme	standleyi
felinum	stelliger versicolor

The low growers are being used as a ground cover for the Agaves and the large growers for the steep sloping bank to the roadway.

### Agaves

Any of the following list will be very gratefully received:

American var., medio-	mitriformis
picta	muilmannii
apotycantha	pachycantha
applanata	palmeri
brachstachys	pruinosa
chiapensis	salmiana
cochlearis	schidigera
fenzliana	schottii
geminiflora	stricta var. rubifolia
ghiesbreghtii	utahensis
hartmanni	verschaffeltii
ingens	vilmoriana
macracantha	weingartii

### Aloes

Any of the following list we would be pleased to receive. Communicate with Miss K. O. Sessions, Pacific Beach, California.

arborescens var. pa-	arborescens var. viri-
chythrysae	difolia
bainesii	myriacantha
caesia	pervispina
commutata	paxii
concinna	percrassa
humilis var. minima	pluridens
humilis var. echinata	salmodyckina var. ful-
johnstonii	gens
laetecoccinea	smaragdina
longistyla	tenuior
marlothii	veva var. chinensis

### THE JANUARY MEETING

"The Happy Warrior" of Plantdom presided at the January meeting of the Floral Association in Balboa Park. Peter D. Barnhart made a rainy trip from Los Angeles at President Mary A. Freer's request and spoke to Association members at a very merry, informal gathering.

Mr. Barnhart is 82 years young, hale, hearty, and not in the least backward about expressing himself. Such an attitude induced a like response from his hearers and quips flew back and forth as the speaker proceeded to present his philosophy of flowers, which is that they are the smiles of God and to plant them is to worthily beautify the bosom of Mother Earth.

He also touched on less poetic angles when he remarked that gardening was an expensive game to play, for game it was and as much of an obsession as mountain climbing or deep sea fishing.

Mr. Barnhart slightly belied the expensive part, at least for others, for he brought with him seeds and slips of plants that he wished to show and generously gave them away after the meeting.

Species of carissa, solanum, physalis, buddleia and dombeya were shown and also the tree tomato, an everblooming orchid and the orange mulberry.

The only cultural direction in Mr. Barnhart's talk was an admonition "to take care of things" since "what savages we are" when we do not and it was effective enough.

He closed his talk with a description of the virulency of euphorbia juice, one kind of which he had experimentally touched to his tongue. It produced a paralyzing effect of a high order and apparently is not an article for steady diet. Mr. Barnhart seemed glad to have survived trying it once.

Miss Sessions' valuable informative talk followed Mr. Barnhart's address. Before she began it she read a letter written to her from William Robinson, world famous English horticulturist.

The bulk of the plants shown and described by her are the following: *Kolanchoe tubiflora*—good winter blooming succulent; *Snowflake*—naturalizing bulb par excellence; *Yellow Carolina jasmine*—excellent vine; *Parkinsonia*—clean, beautiful tree of desert origin; *Eucalyptus sideroxylon rosea*—hardy variety with beautiful pink blooms; *Hardenbergia*—winter blooming vine or bank cover with lavender blossoms; *Genista monospermum*—white flowering genista (bridal veil); *Lyonothamnus*—

sea loving native small tree; *Rhamnus Californica*—hardy native evergreen shrub; *Acacia podalyriaefolia*—demands poor soil which, however, must be well drained.

The Floral Association room was beautifully decorated for the meeting with rain washed pittosporum branches, fragrant with bloom, from Mrs. Greer's garden and clean myrtle shrub from the Park. A. P.

### FEBRUARY WEATHER IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Dean Blake, Weather Bureau

February may be considered as being in the heart of the rainy season in San Diego County, and stormy periods may be expected at any time. The average precipitation is greater than any other month, and there has been one February only without some rain at the Weather Bureau station in the city. As a rule, the storms move rapidly and result in squally, showery weather rather than protracted light rains, and are often accompanied by strong winds which begin in the south and veer to the west before clearing. Seven days with measurable precipitation is the average over a long period of years, and 1.96 inches is the average amount.

Frosts are common back from the coast, but little likelihood of a damaging freeze exists in the citrus and avocado districts, owing to the increased amount of sunshine over January and December. It is one of the cloudiest months of the year, but many anticyclonic days with warm, dry weather are found. Statistics show a relative humidity of 74%; an average of 13 clear days; 67% of the possible amount of sunshine; and 3 days with dense fog. In the city the lowest temperature ever recorded was 34 in 1911; the highest 89 in 1921.

### HARRIS SEED CO. MOVE TO NEW LOCATION

News has reached us that the Harris Seed Co has moved from their Seventh Street location to 726 Broadway. This firm, one of the oldest established seed houses in San Diego, is headed by Mr. Walter Birch, the vice president of the San Diego Floral Association. For many years Mr. Birch has taken an active interest in the affairs of the local association. His column, "The Garden," is well known to our readers. We offer Mr. Birch and his associates our sincere hope that their success in their new location may be even greater than they enjoyed in the past in their old location.

## Spring Care of Irises

By JOHN A. MONROE

Early in February, the bearded (German) Irises that are not already growing, should show signs of beginning their spring growth. Danger of killing frost is almost certainly past, so we may take a chance on stimulating growth a bit. Remembering that on the whole, bearded iris doesn't like too rich a soil, but that also our California soil entirely lacks nitrogen; and that the iris does like lime and phosphoric acid, we may to advantage give our irises a little blood and bone. The blood gives us nitrogen and the bone gives us phosphoric acid with a lime residue to neutralize the acid reaction of the phosphoric acid. A small handful to each plant scattered in a circle well clear of the rhizomes and as far as a foot or foot and a half from them and raked in lightly, should be about right. A handful of agricultural lime may be scattered at the same time. It is not necessary to cultivate so deeply or so close to the plants that many of the fine surface roots are broken. If it has not already been done, dead foliage may be removed and spraying for rust, leaf spot and aphid control begun, if needed. Bordeaux mixture or lime-sulphur may be used for rust and leaf spot and Black Leaf-40 (at double strength recommended on bottle) will get the aphid (root or tulip aphid mostly) if used in quantity and at five day intervals for three applications. Use a sprinkling can and soak the ground well close to the plant, as these aphids are down in the crown of the leaf fan and on the upper parts of the roots. I believe that shriveled leaf fans are the result of their work. In trying to control rust or leaf spot, detecting its appearance promptly, removing affected parts of foliage coupled with keeping new leaves protected by frequent spraying, are the essentials of success. How often you have to spray will depend on how fast the plant is growing. Check over, re-write and replace missing markers as necessary.

The treatment for beardless irises (Spuria, Siberian, Apogons, apanese and so forth) is in general the same, but the fertilizing materials are different, because these irises like rich soil (much humus, which is decayed animal and vegetable matter, and nitrogen), acid soil and lots of water during their growing and blooming seasons. So clean up, spray if pests are present and give them a good mulch of oak leaf mould or peat. Both oak leaf mould and

peat help to make the soil acid, and help to keep the soil from drying out and baking. As soon as the new growth shows on Siberians and Japs, give each plant a handful of sulphate of ammonia after soaking the soil well, then water some more to wash in the sulphate. This fertilizer leaves an acid residue, so it helps make the desired soil acidity. The Spurias and Apogons have been growing for some time so if you have not already given them a feed, do it now. Another and perhaps better way of using sulphate of ammonia is to dissolve two tea spoonfuls to the gallon of water and give each plant a good drink every two weeks till the bloom breaks. Always do this after watering and if you get the fertilizer water on the foliage hose it off or it may burn. I prefer this method because sulphate of ammonia is very quick acting and soluble, so that when a large quantity is applied at one time, some of it leaches beyond reach of the roots before they can use it, so that we may have a slump in growth before the blooming season arrives. Also when using the first method, we may have some burning of the foliage at first, should by any chance we let the plants get a little dry. The first method takes less time, but the second is safer and supplies the fertilizer as needed and we are sure our plants are getting their rations throughout the growing season. Do not use lime, bonemeal or any other fertilizer having a lime content or alkaline residue on beardless irises. Our water and soil have plenty, so we must use our fertilizers and mulches to counteract it and try to have a little acid left over. Even manure is too alkaline in its reaction for use with acid loving plants.

As I have already mentioned, these beardless irises like lots of water during the growing and blooming periods in order to have them at their best. Their water requirements vary some with the different classes and varieties. In general they may be arranged in the following order (first mentioned most water): Apogons, Siberians, Japanese and Spuria. Of the Apogons, *Purpurea* and *psuedacorous* will do very well in shallow water in a pool. Monnieri of the Spuria group likes perhaps more water than some of the others. Soak your beardless irises every few days or sprinkle well every other day.

# The Garden

By WALTER BIRCH

At this writing it is still raining, so it will probably be some time before many gardens will be dry enough for seasonal planting. When it is, don't forget to spade or cultivate, particularly the neglected corners, and around the shrubbery, so that you may get the full benefit of this truly soaking rain. If you follow this with a mulch of manure or peat mull, to be gradually worked in later, you will conserve the moisture much longer and at the same time do something really beneficial to your plants and shrubs.

As you know, January and February are the two best Rose planting months in the year, so don't neglect to set out any you are going to plant this season as soon as possible. Amongst the new ones Talisman and President Hoover seem to be as popular as they were last year, and Hadley, Hoosier Beauty and Dame Edith Helen are still holding their own. If you have not already pruned your bushes, do so at once, and don't be afraid to cut back heavily, but do it with judgment. This applies also to the bushes you are setting out.

There are a great many very attractive varieties of Gladioli bulbs now ready, and by planting a few every three weeks for the next few months, you can have a wonderful succession of blooms of these beautiful flowers right through the summer months. It pays to get the best quality of number one Gladioli bulbs. They are so absurdly cheap at present, and you can make some splendid color combinations by choosing your favorites from the many varieties offered. Gladioli do well in any good garden soil, and will respond readily to a fair share of water, fertilizer and cultivation. Plant four to six inches apart and about four inches deep.

Tuberous rooted Begonias are also seasonable at this time, and are becoming more popular every year, as people realize how comparatively easy they are to grow. They come in single, double and frilled flowers, in colors of crimson, pink, orange, scarlet, yellow, salmon and others. blooms being large and very showy and beautiful, and flowering for several months during the summer. These bulbs can be planted

in shady or semi-shady, protected locations out of doors, and are largely used for pot culture in lath houses. Plant bulbs their own depth, with the cup shaped side up, so that the top of the bulb is barely covered. The soil should be a mixture of half or two-thirds screened leaf mould, balance light rich garden soil. There is no bulb that will give you a longer period of bloom or more beauty of flowers than the tuberous begonias.

Japanese Lillies do very well in and around San Diego, especially if you have easily worked deep soil. In heavier soils use considerable leaf mould or peat mull and some sand. Leaf mould is also beneficial mixed with your lighter soil. Lillies should be planted about eight inches deep, using a little cushion of sand under each bulb to prevent rotting. Lillies should be planted in permanent beds, in locations that afford partial shade, and as some of them bloom as late as August and September, they can still be successfully planted, especially after our late heavy rains. The Auratum Lily is one of the most beautiful and successful around San Diego. The flowers are large, white in color, thick studded with chocolate crimson spots, with a gold band through the center of each petal and very fragrant. Rubrum and Tigrinum are also very fine, and remember that, with good soil, fertilizer, partial shade and a fairly generous supply of water, you can have a permanent bed of very attractive flowers, with a comparatively long blooming period during the summer, and you don't have to dig your bulbs up at the end of the season, as the clumps get bigger and stronger year after year.

February is one of the best seeding and planting months for late Spring and Summer blooms and you can now set out plants of Snapdragon, Canterbury Bells, Coreopsis, Forget-Me-Not, Gaillardia, Larkspur, Nemesis and others.

Don't forget to stimulate the old lawn by sowing a little White Clover and applying some fertilizer in the way of Lawn Pep if you have not already done so. You will be surprised at the improvement during the spring and summer.

## THE ROSECROFT BEGONIA GARDENS

### An Appreciation

How prone we are to roam over the earth in search of "points of interest" of which we have read in some Travellers Guide Book, or in some Tourist promotion scheme with never a thought that in our midst are enough of such "points," if carefully studied to consume the time most folks have to spare for travel.

In this article I shall attempt to describe one such place of this Southland.

It is the caption of this article. Prof. Bailey, a world wide traveller tells me that in all his travels he never met with so large, and so varied a collection of Begonias. The Lath house containing the plants covers an area of an acre. Now there is such a thing as growing plants solely for the money there is in it. To be sure the propagation, and the care of plants require cash, and unless the grower is playing the game, purely for the pleasure he gets out of it, he must sell the products of his skill or go "broke."

In the case of the Robinsons there is Love and Artistry combined in the great work they are doing. I say Love, since it is apparent in the care bestowed upon the plants in that garden. I say Artistry in the arrangement of beds, walks, and hanging baskets. The 17th of January it was my privilege to stroll through those gardens of wondrous beauty. Wet and cold as the month had been up to that time, I was amazed to see how well the plants came through the low temperature. Indeed the day before a hailstorm covered that part of the Southland with a coat of ice an inch thick.

I have fully made up my mind that we are yet in the infant class of Gardening so far as this Southland is concerned. We don't study the nature of the things we would grow. We don't give them enough drainage to carry them through a cold rainy season. We don't give them enough food of the right sort to satisfy their requirements of growth, and best development. We expect them to thrive where the roots of voracious trees rob them of food and moisture.

Brethren let us become Students in the art of Gardening then we shall have a land distinctive, a great Botanic Garden composed of Units, both large and small, which, combined, will be the wonder and the admiration of the world. Furthermore, go the Gardens which are the inspiration of this article and learn of the Robinsons how to grow Begonias in the

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open, that this land of dreams, yet unfulfilled, may become realities.

Several years ago it was my privilege to witness a dramatic Love Scene played in that Garden. Dramatists who appear on stages usually display a sense of self-consciousness, and nine times out of ten mar the beauty of the performance.

Not so in this case. The actors were not aware of a spectator. A large plant had to be moved from one part of the Lath house to another. A little wagon was necessary to move it. When the man and the woman decided on the place it was to occupy he placed it. They both stepped back to see how it fitted into the scheme, she with hands akimbo, looked first at the plant, then at him, with looks of affection, and admiration that to me, was sublime in the extreme, while he, all unconscious of doing anything out of the ordinary, returned the glance with a look of love and devotion, that filled my soul with a peace that passeth understanding.

Who were the Actors in this Drama? None other than Alfred D. Robinson, and his wife, Annie C. Robinson.  
P. D. B.

### OPUNTIA SERPENTINA REDISCOVERED

Four specimen plants of the long lost *Opuntia serpentina*, a cylindropuntia native to San Diego County and which has never been known to occur anywhere outside this county, and been considered extinct for many years by botanists and collectors of Cactus, was found in January, 1932, growing within six miles of the heart of the city of San Diego. The entire patch found consisted of four full grown plants all within a radius of 15 feet. The location was in soil which has been under cultivation for agricultural purposes for perhaps 40 years or more, and that this species survived the yearly plowing of the land in which it was found attests the tenacious surviving and propagating power of the *Opuntia*. It is the opinion of those that have visited the four rediscovered plants that it was the soil turnover each year that contributed to the survival of these plants since no other plants of *Opuntia serpentina* have been found in uncultivated lands in San Diego County in many years.

For the conservation and preservation of this highly prized species, cuttings were taken from this group and are today being propagated in the collections of W. Lee Chambers, the discoverer; also Edgar Baxter of Bellflower, California, an *Opuntia* expert, and the writer. It is hardly one year ago that these cuttings were rooted and set out, with the results that today there are more plants under cultivation in these collections than were growing in San Diego County in 1932.

The discovery plants were visited again in November, 1932, by the only two men knowing their location and all four plants have shown a remarkable increase in new growth, which would indicate that this species does not resent pruning. It was stated some time ago that Mr. McCabe of the McCabe Cactus Gardens at Encanto had rediscovered this *Opuntia* about four years ago; this he denies with the statement that he has searched over most of San Diego County for plants of it without results.

The outstanding difference of this *Opuntia* from the others native to California is in the bluish strong tuberculate stems which are from four to eight inches long and never over one inch in diameter; it also has an altogether different growing habit in that the ascending branches assume both an erect and prostrate position.

For a complete description, together with a picture of *Opuntia serpentina*, see Volume I,

page 216, of the Journal of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, which is at the San Diego Library.

G. A. FRICK.

### TWO NEW BOOKS BY CALIFORNIAN AUTHORS

Within the last few months two books have come on the typewriters of two California authors and have begun their mission of dispensing knowledge. Each writer is an authority in his line and each has made a fine job of his latest volume. (Charles Francis Saunders "Western Wild Flowers," Sydney B. Mitchell "From a Sunset Garden." Both published by Doubleday Doran & Co. Price \$3.00 each.) Although both authors write of plants, the books are as distinctive as their writers. But they have one thing in common. Both are horticultural literature,—*literature*, mind you, not just horticultural books.

This is a distinction (and a blessed one) which is at last beginning to make itself known in American books on plants and gardens. Time was (and unfortunately, occasionally still is) when books on these subjects contained information and that was about all that could be said of them. They were like many of the last-century American gardens, which contained plants indeed, but no planning or enshrining of beauty. Plant books from Europe are, like their gardens, more seasoned. There is no reason why a book on plants cannot give the necessary facts and yet give them in good English and with decent style.

Both these men have done this,—they and a few other modern writers on plant culture have inaugurated the era of plant essays. For which we should give thanks.

C. F. Saunders has for many years been California's outstanding chronicler of plant lore and of the ways and histories of our wild

### THE JOHNSON NURSERY

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flowers. This book is the most ambitious and complete which he has given us on his pet subject. It is carefully written, as are all his books, and is done in the best Saunders style. It is a leisurely narrative in which he has caught the finer qualities as well as the idiosyncrasies of California's better known flora, and which in pleasantly discursive style conveys much novel and valuable information, gleaned with considerable pains from many an obscure source.

This skillfully assembled collection of fact and legend about the wild flowers of California makes up a volume which is pleasant reading as well as an invaluable source of information. A fuller index would have perhaps increased its usefulness in the latter respect. The print is large and among the many good photographs there are some which portray perfectly the characteristic features of California's landscape.

It is a chatty intimate book with pleasant out-croppings of quiet humor. Some of its stories are truthful, some legendary and some on that uncertain line where folk-lore and actuality blend. In it you will learn of the origin of the California Academy of Sciences, why the elderberry bush is so widespread throughout the state, how the lazy fisherman may drug his fish and unsportingly land them without effort, what food value there is in arrowhead and carum.

You at the southern end of the state will find it especially useful, for the plant life mentioned is largely that of southern California. Find a chink for it among your closely packed dunnage when next you make for the open country. With use it will stimulate the pride you feel in your native flora and will revive the memory of half-forgotten facts.

Sydney B. Mitchell's "From a Sunset Garden" is a cross between a garden reference book and a volume of pleasant essays. The author's first book guided the hesitating footsteps of the embryo gardener in California. This second book leads up many inviting avenues and gives us glimpses of fascinating garden possibilities. Although himself a specialist, he knows California gardening so well that he can write competently on plant material for the whole state, and especially for the central part. He is enough of a gardener to admit that a person may be entirely mad about some form of gardening and still be quite sane,—and blissfully so,—and enough of a sportsman to let every man have his own particular craze. Whatever your plant penchant, you will be almost sure to

find in this book something on the subject of your choice.

As he writes he lays a few horticultural ghosts. He states, for instance, that to be a plant wizard it is only necessary to be a patient and practised gardener; that there *are* plants which will grow beneath eucalyptus trees; that *Nierembergia rivularis* *will* grow where moisture does not abound. He explains the correct usage of the terms "narcissus" and "jonquil" and he repeatedly mentions the American handicap that one must obtain choice seeds and plants (and even our own natives) from England.

As one would expect from so experienced a daffodil grower, there is a meaty chapter on that subject, containing information which we can share with eastern gardeners. Another chapter acclaims the bank or slope as a gardener's windfall, to be treasured and beautified rather than left bare or treated in an unimaginative manner.

You will like the chapter on "Thrifty Rock Plants" and the one on "Sun Roses, Rock Roses and Brooms" (a blessed trio eminently fitted for California). The information on iris breeding is interesting as well as valuable and Mr. Mitchell is particularly enlightening about species irises, a subject on which the layman is woefully weak. And you will like the cultural hints,—the tip to soak anemone and ranunculus bulbs and to keep South African bulbs dry all summer. There is a discriminating list of nurserymen and seedsmen at the end, and catalogue fiends who were under the impression that they had pretty well covered the ground may find in it an address or two which has escaped them.

The first reading is not the end of this book. Its value will increase with time. It is destined to keep its place on our bookshelves and become thumbed and besmudged by soiled gardening hands in need of sudden and hasty advice.

LESTER RONTREE,  
Carmel, California.

### CORRECTION

In the January number the editorial comment on Charles Francis Saunders' new book, "California Wild Flowers and Their Stories" was garbled by the deletion of one line. The author's surname and the name of the publishers, Doubleday, Doran & Co., were omitted. Elsewhere in the columns of this number may be found an excellent review of this fine new book.

*The Magazine . . .*

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